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rainbow parrotfish in or from the Caribbean EEZ. Such fish caught in the Caribbean EEZ must be released with a minimum of harm.

§ 622.435 Seasonal and area closures.

(a) *Seasonal closures*—(1) *Seasonal closures applicable to specific species only*—

(i) *Red, black, tiger, yellowfin, or yellowedge grouper closure.* From February 1 through April 30, each year, no person may fish for or possess red, black, tiger, yellowfin, or yellowedge grouper in or from the Caribbean EEZ. This prohibition on possession does not apply to such grouper harvested and landed ashore prior to the closure.

(ii) *Red hind closure.* From December 1 through the last day of February, each year, no person may fish for or possess red hind in or from the Caribbean EEZ west of 67°10' W. longitude. This prohibition on possession does not apply to red hind harvested and landed ashore prior to the closure.

(iii) *Vermilion, black, silk, or blackfin snapper closure.* From October 1 through December 31, each year, no person may fish for or possess vermillion, black, silk, or blackfin snapper in or from the Caribbean EEZ. This prohibition on possession does not apply to such snapper harvested and landed ashore prior to the closure.

(iv) *Lane or mutton snapper closure.* From April 1 through June 30, each year, no person may fish for or possess lane or mutton snapper in or from the Caribbean EEZ. This prohibition on possession does not apply to such snapper harvested and landed ashore prior to the closure.

(2) *Seasonal closures applicable to broad categories of fish or to all fishing*—(i) *Mutton snapper spawning aggregation area.* From March 1 through June 30, each year, fishing is prohibited in that part of the following area that is in the EEZ. The area is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the points listed.

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	17°37.8'	64°53.0'
B	17°39.0'	64°53.0'
C	17°39.0'	64°50.5'
D	17°38.1'	64°50.5'
E	17°37.8'	64°52.5'
A	17°37.8'	64°53.0'

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(ii) *Red hind spawning aggregation areas.* From December 1 through February 28, each year, fishing is prohibited in those parts of the following areas that are in the EEZ. Each area is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the points listed.

(A) *East of St. Croix.*

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	17°50.2'	64°27.9'
B	17°50.1'	64°26.1'
C	17°49.2'	64°25.8'
D	17°48.6'	64°25.8'
E	17°48.1'	64°26.1'
F	17°47.5'	64°26.9'
A	17°50.2'	64°27.9'

(B) *West of Puerto Rico*—(1) [Reserved]

(2) *Tourmaline Bank.*

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	18°11.2'	67°22.4'
B	18°11.2'	67°19.2'
C	18°08.2'	67°19.2'
D	18°08.2'	67°22.4'
A	18°11.2'	67°22.4'

(3) *Abrir La Sierra Bank.*

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	18°06.5'	67°26.9'
B	18°06.5'	67°23.9'
C	18°03.5'	67°23.9'
D	18°03.5'	67°26.9'
A	18°06.5'	67°26.9'

(iii) *Grammanik Bank closed area.* (A) The Grammanik Bank closed area is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following points:

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	18°11.898'	64°56.328'
B	18°11.645'	64°56.225'
C	18°11.058'	64°57.810'
D	18°11.311'	64°57.913'
A	18°11.898'	64°56.328'

(B) From February 1 through April 30, each year, no person may fish for or possess any species of fish, except highly migratory species, in or from the Grammanik Bank closed area. This prohibition on possession does not apply to such fish harvested and landed ashore prior to the closure. For the purpose of this paragraph, “*fish*” means finfish, mollusks, crustaceans, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine mammals and birds. “*Highly migratory species*” means bluefin, bigeye, yellowfin,

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albacore, and skipjack tunas; swordfish; sharks (listed in Appendix A to part 635 of this title); and white marlin, blue marlin, sailfish, and longbill spearfish.

(iv) *Bajo de Sico closed area.* (A) The Bajo de Sico closed area is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order the following points:

Point A	North lat.	West long.
A	18°15.7'	67°26.4'
B	18°15.7'	67°23.2'
C	18°12.7'	67°23.2'
D	18°12.7'	67°26.4'
A	18°15.7'	67°26.4'

(B) From October 1 through March 31, each year, no person may fish for or possess any Caribbean reef fish, as listed in table 2 of appendix A to part 622, in or from those parts of the Bajo de Sico closed area that are in the EEZ. The prohibition on possession does not apply to such Caribbean reef fish harvested and landed ashore prior to the closure.

(b) *Year-round closures*—(1) *Hind Bank Marine Conservation District (MCD).* The following activities are prohibited within the Hind Bank MCD: Fishing for any species and anchoring by fishing vessels. The Hind Bank MCD is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the points listed.

Point	North lat.	West long.
A	18°13.2'	65°06.0'
B	18°13.2'	64°59.0'
C	18°11.8'	64°59.0'
D	18°10.7'	65°06.0'
A	18°13.2'	65°06.0'

(2) *Areas closed year-round to certain fishing gear.* Fishing with pots, traps, bottom longlines, gillnets or trammel nets is prohibited year-round in the closed areas specified in paragraphs (a)(2)(i), (ii), (iii), and (iv) of this section.

(3) *Anchoring prohibition year-round in Bajo de Sico.* Anchoring, by fishing vessels, is prohibited year-round in those parts of the Bajo de Sico closed area, described in paragraph (a)(2)(iv) of this section, that are in the EEZ.

§ 622.436 Size limits.

All size limits in this section are minimum size limits unless specified otherwise. A fish not in compliance

with its size limit, as specified in this section, in or from the Caribbean EEZ, may not be possessed, sold, or purchased. A fish not in compliance with its size limit must be released immediately with a minimum of harm. The operator of a vessel that fishes in the EEZ is responsible for ensuring that fish on board are in compliance with the size limits specified in this section. See § 622.10 regarding requirements for landing fish intact.

(a) *Yellowtail snapper.* The minimum size limit for yellowtail snapper is 12 inches (30.5 cm), TL.

(b) *Parrotfishes.* The minimum size limit for parrotfishes, except for redband parrotfish, in the St. Croix Management Area only (as defined in table 2 of appendix E to part 622) is 9 inches (22.9 cm), fork length. See § 622.434(c) for the current prohibition on the harvest and possession of midnight parrotfish, blue parrotfish, or rainbow parrotfish.

(c) *Redband parrotfish.* The minimum size limit for red band parrotfish in the St. Croix Management Area only (as defined in table 2 of appendix E to part 622) is 8 inches (20.3 cm), fork length.

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§ 622.437 Bag limits.

(a) *Applicability.* Section 622.11(a) provides the general applicability for bag and possession limits. However, § 622.11(a)(1) notwithstanding, the bag limits of paragraph (b) of this section do not apply to a person who has a valid commercial fishing license issued by Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

(b) *Bag limits.* (1) Groupers, snappers, and parrotfishes combined—5 per person per day or, if 3 or more persons are aboard, 15 per vessel per day; but not to exceed 2 parrotfish per person per day or 6 parrotfish per vessel per day.

(2) Other reef fish species combined—5 per person per day or, if 3 or more persons are aboard, 15 per vessel per day, but not to exceed 1 surgeonfish per person per day or 4 surgeonfish per vessel per day.